

REMARKS

Claims 10-29 are remain pending in this application with claims 10 and 23 being amended by this response. Claims 10 and 23 have been amended for clarification purposes. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and specifically on page 7, lines 23-25. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the claims.

Rejection of Claims 10-13, 21, 23 and 27-29 under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 10-13, 21, 23 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Casement et al. (US Patent # 6,144,401).

The present claimed invention provides a system including a video signal processor for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce a plurality of images for display to at least one viewer (Page 4, lines 14-19 and Page 5, lines 1-3). A supervisor control system is provided which is operable by a supervisor to create at least one viewer profile identifying images to be blocked from display to at least one viewer (Page 5, lines 7-11). The supervisor control system allows a supervisor to select a specific program having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to the viewer profile such that the select program is unblocked for the duration of the program while the other of the plurality of images for display are blocked according to the viewer profile (Figure 1; Page 7, lines 6-31). Upon completion of the selected specific program, the supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to the at least one viewer profile (Page 6, lines 3-9). Claims 10 and 23 contain features similar to those discussed above.

Casement et al. describe a television schedule system that allows a user using a "Parental Control" to control access to television programs by time, rating, content and/or channel. Furthermore, the user may set a limit on pay-per-view (PPV) spending, to limit the purchase of PPV programs (Col. 1, lines 32-39).

Casement et al. describe two methods of unblocking a program having a rating above the blocking scheme. In the first method, the user enters the administrative password to “Unlock All Locks” and unblocks the desired program. The user may then either “Relock All Locks” from the parental control menu or the parental locks may be restored when the television is powered off (Col. 6, lines 2-11). In the second method, the user tunes a blocked program and enters the administrative password to “Unlock All Locks” and watch the tuned specified program. However, once the user tunes off of the tuned channel, the parental locks will be restored (Col. 6, lines 12-23).

The Office Action asserts that Casement et al. disclose the unblocking of a program having a rating above the blocking scheme as in the present claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, as described above, in both the first and second method of Casement et al. the user must input a password to “Unlock all locks”. By “unlocking all the locks” all the programs on the tuned channel are available to the user until the user manually restores the blocks by tuning off of the selected channel. Essentially, the user is able to unblock all the programs on a specified channel until the channel is changed. In contrast, the present claimed invention is concerned with unblocking a single selected program for its duration while still blocking the programs on other channels and the programs before and after the selected program on the selected channel. Thus, Casement et al. are fundamentally different than the present claimed invention, as Casement et al. unlock all programs on a selected channel and the present claimed invention unblocks only a specified program. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Casement et al. neither disclose nor suggest “that said **select program is unblocked for the duration of the program while the other of said plurality of images for display are blocked according to said viewer profile**, whereby upon completion of said selected specific program, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as recited in claims 10 and 23 of the present claimed invention.

Furthermore, Casement et al. describe restoring the disabled blocks when the user tunes off the channel. In this way, the user must **manually** restore the blocks in order to block programs on other channels and subsequent programs on the same channel. This is wholly unlike the present claimed invention that constantly blocks programs on other channels and **automatically** blocks subsequent programs on the same channel. Specifically, the present claimed invention unblocks a specified program **for its duration** so that the user cannot view subsequent blocked programs on that channel after the program has completed. Thus, Casement et al. are fundamentally different than the present claimed invention, as Casement et al. unblock a channel until that channel is **manually** tuned off and the present claimed invention unblocks a program for its duration and automatically blocks subsequent programs. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Casement et al. neither disclose nor suggest “that said **select program is unblocked for the duration of the program** while the other of said plurality of images for display are blocked according to said viewer profile, whereby upon completion of said selected specific program, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as recited in claims 10 and 23 of the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Casement et al. showing the above discussed features. As claims 11-13, 21 and 27-29 are dependent on independent claims 10 and 23, it is respectfully submitted that they are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to independent claims 10 and 23. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 14-17, 19 and 24-26 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 14-17, 19 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Casement et al. in view of Collings (US Patent # 5,828,402).

Collings is directed to selectively blocking audio and video signals based upon a comparison of the contents of data packets transmitted with a television signal to stored preferences. The user is provided a menu which allows for the enabling, disabling and temporarily disabling one of a plurality of available blocking features. When a user wishes to view a program currently restricted by one of the multiple stored blocking preferences the user must enter the main menu and temporarily disable all the features containing limits applying to the selected program (Col. 17, lines 1-32). The length of the period in which the set limits are temporarily disabled is chosen by the user and input in the main menu (Fig. 5B).

The Office Action asserts that Collings discloses the principles of the present claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, Collings does not teach selecting a program such that the selected program is unblocked. The system of Collings requires that in order to watch a restricted program, one must disable all applicable blocking functions to the specified program. Essentially, Collings does not disclose the selection of a program to be unblocked (unblocked meaning to be fully unrestricted to the user), rather Collings discloses the selection of blocking preferences to be disabled. This is unlike the present invention, for the present invention selects a program to be unblocked and displayed to the user. Collings merely allows for the supervisor to disable existing restrictions. Therefore, Collings, similar to Casement et al., neither discloses nor suggests selecting “**a specific program** having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said select program is **unblocked for the duration of the program** while the other of the plurality of images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile” as claimed in claims 10 and 23 of the present invention.

Additionally, Collings discloses that in order to watch a program which exceeds the set ratings one must enter the menu and either disable or temporarily disable the applicable blocking features. If the features were **disabled** in Collings, the at least one user profile will have been **altered** and upon completion of the program desired programs will be blocked in accordance with the **new altered** at least one user profile.

If the features were **temporarily disabled**, then the system would block programs according the original at least one user profile **only after** the pre-entered disable time length. This is unlike the present claimed invention which blocks programs **upon completion** of the selected program according to the **original** at least one user profile. Therefore, Collings, with Casement et al., neither discloses nor suggests “whereby upon **completion of said select program**, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in claims 10 and 23 of present invention.

The Office Action asserts further that the combination of the systems of Casement et al. and Collings disclose the principles of the present claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, as neither Casement et al. and Collings are concerned with unblocking a single selected program having a rating above the set rating scheme while still blocking all other images according to the set blocking scheme, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with unblocking the selected program while blocking all the other unselected programs according to the set blocking scheme. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al. and Collings, neither discloses nor suggests selecting “**a specific program** having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said select program is **unblocked for the duration of the program** while the other of the plurality of images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile” as claimed in claims 10 and 23 of the present invention.

Additionally, as the individual systems of Casement et al. and Collings are not concerned with blocking all the images according to the set blocking scheme upon completion of the selected program, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with blocking all images based on the rating scheme after the completion of the selected program. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al. and Collings, neither discloses nor suggests “whereby upon **completion of said select program**, said supervisor control

system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in claims 10 and 23 of present invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Casement et al., or Collings, when taken alone or in combination, showing the above discussed features. As claims 14-17, 19 and 24-26 are dependent on independent claims 10 and 23, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable over Casement et al. and Collings, when taken alone or in combination, for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to independent claims 10 and 23. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 18 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casement et al. in view of Collings and further in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. 204/0040034 A1).

Sullivan describes a system and method for controlling a plurality of parental control subsystems within an entertainment system. The system includes a computer interfaced to a plurality of audio and/or audiovisual devices, wherein at least two of the audio and/or audiovisual devices within the system each comprise a native parental control subsystem or locking mechanism having adjustable parameters. A software locking mechanism operates the computer to allow a user to input one or more general parental control parameters and then sets the adjustable parameters of each native parental control subsystem within the system by mapping the parental control parameters onto each separate, native mechanism for each device (see Abstract).

Sullivan et al. describe a system and method for controlling a plurality of parental control subsystems within an entertainment system. Multiple user profiles may be created and saved in memory. However, Sullivan, similar to Casement et al. and

Collings, is not concerned with unblocking a single selected program while blocking all other images according to the set blocking scheme as in the present claimed invention. Thus, Sullivan, similarly to Casement et al. and Collings, neither discloses nor suggests selecting “a specific program having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said **select program is unblocked for the duration of the program while all other images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile**” as claimed in independent claim 10 of present invention.

Additionally, Sullivan is not concerned with returning to the normal function of the at least one user profile upon completion of the selected program. Therefore, Sullivan, similarly to Casement et al. and Collings, neither discloses nor suggests “whereby **upon completion of said selected specific program**, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in independent claim 10 of present invention.

Furthermore, Sullivan is silent on providing an override list to override the viewability of the programs that are blocked or unblocked according to the viewer profile. While Sullivan describes a method for controlling different user profiles within an entertainment system, Sullivan is not concerned with providing the capability to override a ratings control system as in the present claimed invention. Specifically, Sullivan, similarly to Casement et al. and Collings, neither discloses nor suggests providing “said override list is applicable to at least one corresponding viewer profile such that at least one image to be blocked according said viewer profile is unblocked and at least one other image not blocked according to said viewer profile is blocked” as claimed in claim 14 of present invention on which claim 18 depends.

The Office Action asserts that the combination of the systems of Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan discloses the principles of the present claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, as the individual systems of Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan are not concerned with unblocking a single selected program

while blocking all other images according to the set ratings scheme, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with unblocking a selected program while blocking all other images according to the set blocking scheme. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan, neither discloses nor suggests selecting “**a specific program** having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said select program is **unblocked for the duration of the program** while the other of the plurality of images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile” as claimed in claim 10 of the present invention.

Additionally, as the individual systems of Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan are not concerned with blocking all the images according to the set blocking scheme upon completion of the selected program, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with blocking all images based on the rating scheme after the completion of the selected program. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan, neither discloses nor suggests “whereby upon **completion of said select program**, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in claim 10 of present invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan, when taken alone or in combination, showing the above discussed features. As claim 18 is dependent on independent claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is also allowable over Casement et al., Collings and Sullivan, when taken alone or in combination, for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to independent claim 10. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 20 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casement et al. in view of West et al.(US Patent # 5,552,575).

West et al. describe a viewer discretion television program control system including devices and methods for controlling access to television viewing. Multiple user allocation of permissible viewing times and program content are under the control of a system supervisor. However, West et al. are not directed towards selecting a program to be viewed over an at least one viewer profile without changing the at least one viewer profile as in the present claimed invention. In fact, West et al, similarly to Casement et al., neither disclose nor suggest selecting a “specific program having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said select program is unblocked while all other images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile” as claimed in independent claim 10 of present invention.

Additionally, West et al. is not concerned with returning to the normal function of the at least one user profile upon completion of the selected program. Therefore, West et al., similarly to Casement et al., neither disclose nor suggest “whereby upon completion of said select program, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in independent claim 10 of present invention.

The Office Action asserts that the combination of the systems of Casement et al. and West et al. discloses the principles of the present claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, as the individual systems of Casement et al. and West et al. are not concerned with unblocking a single selected program while blocking all other images according to the set ratings scheme, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with unblocking a selected program while blocking all other images according to the set blocking scheme. Therefore, it is respectfully

submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al. and West et al., neither discloses nor suggests selecting “**a specific program** having a rating above a set rating for blocking programs applicable to said viewer profile such that said select program is **unblocked for the duration of the program** while the other of the plurality of images produced for display are blocked according to said viewer profile” as claimed in claim 10 of the present invention.

Additionally, as the individual systems of Casement et al. and West et al. are not concerned with blocking all the images according to the set blocking scheme upon completion of the selected program, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is not concerned with blocking all images based on the rating scheme after the completion of the selected program. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination, similar to the individual systems of Casement et al. and West et al., neither discloses nor suggests “whereby upon **completion of said select program**, said supervisor control system identifies images to be blocked according to said at least one viewer profile” as claimed in claim 10 of present invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Casement et al. and West et al., when taken alone or in combination, showing the above discussed features. As claim 20 is dependent on independent claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is also allowable over Casement et al. and West et al., when taken alone or in combination, for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to independent claim 10. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the

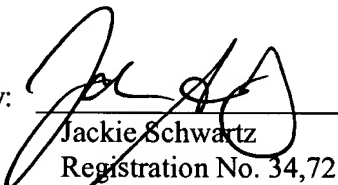
Application No. 09/475,448

Attorney Docket No. RCA89385

Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No additional fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

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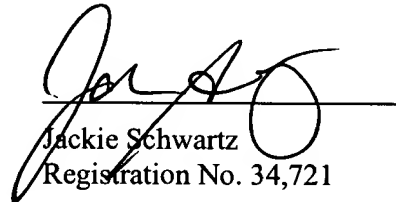
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